
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF
ONGAR.

REPORTS
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES

For the Year 1920.

THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ONGAR.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1920.

To the Chairman and Members of the Ongar Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure to present my Annual Report on the health of the District during 1920.

Compared with past years, and with England as a whole country, the figures of mortality are above the average, a state of things affording little ground for satisfaction.

On the other hand the births now exceed the deaths, the birth-rate being equal to the average elsewhere.

Concurrently with this an unusual mortality has taken place among the infants, two-thirds of which is due to their being prematurely born or weak at birth.

The causes for this are not obvious, some of the well-known factors such as venereal disease are not to the best of our knowledge operating in this District to any serious extent.

The whole matter will receive further attention and investigation.

Infectious disease has not on the whole been unduly prevalent, and the measures taken for its control have been effective.

Tubercular disease has shown a decline, and there has been no severe prevalence of Influenza.

The Report follows the plan prescribed by the Ministry of Health.

Natural and Social Conditions.

The District is purely agricultural, comprising 26 parishes, with a total area of 47,712 acres, and a population at the 1911 Census of 10, 647.

Outdoor Poor Law Relief amounts to £1500 yearly.

Vital Statistics.

		TOTAL NUMBER.	RATE PER 1000
Births	...	237	25.0.
Deaths (all ages)	...	146	14.3.
„ (under 1 year		25	105.5.

Sanitary Circumstances

WATER SUPPLIES.

The Parishes of Chipping Ongar, High Ongar, Bobbingworth, Greensted, Lambourne, Theydon Mount, and parts of Stanford Rivers are supplied by the Herts and Essex Water Co.

The water is pure but very hard. Supply is constant.

The remainder of the District is mainly supplied by shallow wells; solitary houses and small groups are often badly off and use any surface water near to hand. Experience shows it is difficult to remedy these cases, but often collective action would improve matters.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The District is traversed from north to south by the River Roding, there being no other streams of much

importance. It receives the effluents from the Sewage Works at High Ongar, Chipping Ongar, and Abridge.

These Works are usually in good order, but complaints have been made of the Chipping Ongar Works, and it would be desirable to work the land more frequently.

Toot Hill, Moreton, and Blackmore are also sewered.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION,

The general policy where there are no Sewers is to provide houses with pail closets, and to convert existing privies into pail closets. Seven such conversions were made during 1920.

Estimated number of privies with open middens,					200
„	„	„	covered	„	200
„	„	pail closets	...		1100
„	„	water „	...		600

SCAVENGING.

Chipping Ongar is scavenged by contract, the refuse being disposed of at a Destructor at the Sewage Works.

NUISANCE INSPECTIONS.

Premises visited (in addition to others recorded					
elsewhere)	...	...	...	...	85
Complaints received	...	...	...	...	14
„	„	(No nuisance found)	...	...	6
Informal Notices (complied with)	...	...	...	...	12
„	„	(unabated)	...	...	2
Statutory	„	(complied with)	...	...	2

Premises controlled by Bye-Laws.

	NUMBER IN DISTRICT.	NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS.
Bakehouses	... 15	15
Common Lodging Houses	Nil	Nil
Knackers' Yards	... 2	5
Slaughter Houses	... 7	10
Offensive Trades	... Nil	Nil

The general condition at inspection has been satisfactory.

Elementary Schools.

Sixteen Schools have been inspected and the premises found in good sanitary order. The drainage of High Ongar School should be connected to the public sewer, which comes to the boundary of the site.

Personal inspection of Scholars is made for carrier cases of Diphtheria; one such case was discovered in Lambourne School and the School was closed.

Closure has also been practised in epidemics of Measles and Whooping Cough.

Food.

MILK

A good deal is sent to London daily.

Cowsheds are inspected periodically. The quality of the Milk is good and complaints are rare.

MOTHERS' AND CHILDREN'S ORDER.

Selected cases supplied.

There are 96 Registered Cowkeepers in the District.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES IN USE.

In 1914. January, 1920. December, 1920.

Registered

Licensed 7 7 7

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Disease.

DIPHTHERIA

Has been, as usually of late years, the most prevalent serious disease, and 3 deaths occurred from this cause. Practically all the cases are sent to Hospital. Contacts usually receive antitoxin prophylactically, and are bacteriologically investigated. Disinfection is efficiently done.

SCARLET FEVER.

Thirteen cases occurred, of which 9 were sent to Hospital.

Five cases of Pnuemonia and 3 of Erysipelas were notified.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Four cases Pulmonary.

One case non-Pulmonary were notified.

Five deaths occurred during the year.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Health Visitor (Miss Montgomery) resigned in August, 1920, and no successor has been appointed, it being considered that the work would be better done by the County Council under a County Scheme.

During her term of office the Health Visitor paid nearly 1000 visits to young infants and advised on their case. She also visited tuberculosis, cases of Scabies, which were not doing well in their homes.

At present no Health Visitor is working in this District, but the County Council are arranging that one shall be appointed.

No case of Puerperal Fever was notified.

„ „ Ophthalmia Neonatorum was notified.

One case of Poliomyelitis was notified, but was withdrawn, being shewn subsequently not to be the disease.

Epidemic Diarrhoea hardly can be said to occur.

No deaths are registered from this cause.

Sanitary Administration.

1. Staff consists of Medical Officer of Health, one Sanitary Inspector and Assistant, and Clerk.

2. Hospital Accommodation is by contract with the Romford Joint Hospital Board and is adequate.

3. LOCAL ACTS. None

4. BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK. This is done at the County Health Laboratories, Queen Victoria Street, London.

Housing.

1. General Housing Conditions in District.

(1) NUMBER OF HOUSES.

Total	...	...	...	2447
For Working Class	...	...	...	1607
Erected during 1920	...	...	...	5
In course of erection	...	...	...	37

(2) POPULATION.

1911 Census, 10647. No important change expected.

(3) SHORTAGE OF HOUSES.

Estimated deficiency through ceesation of building during the War, 100.

(4) MEASURES CONTEMPLATED.

Scheme for erection of 250 houses approved.
37 building.

2. Overcrowding.

(1) Extent. Prevalent in 160 houses.

(2) Causes. (a) House too small for family in occupation.

(b) Additional people living in—
lodgers

(3) Measures taken. Individual cases dealt with where practicable; very little can be done till more houses are built.

(4) Principal cases dealt with. None.

3. Fitness of Houses.

(1) (a) General Standard of Housing

The average Cottage is fair, but there is a high percentage of very poor dwellings.

(b) General character of defects found.

Dampness. No damp course in walls.

No eaves guttering or defective

No down water pipes.

Roof in bad repair.

Damp brick and defective floors

LACK OF VENTILATION.

Low ceilings, small rooms.

Rotten plaster and woodwork.

Insufficient sanitary accommodation.

WATER SUPPLY.

- (1) Owners in some cases to blame for defects
- (2) Action taken.
 - (a) Under Public Health Acts.
 - (b) Under Housing Acts. No action.
- (3) Difficulties in remedying Unfitness.
 - (a) Want of labour
 - (b) Many houses not worth repairing.

UNHEALTHY AREAS. None.

4. Bye-Laws.

- (1) The Building Bye-Laws, Rural Series, are in force.
- (2) There does not seem any need for revision of or additional Bye-Laws.

GENERAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Survey of all Cottages completed early in 1920.

HOUSING.

- (3) (c.) Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing Town Planning Act, 1909 :
 - 1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders Nil
 - 2. Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil
 - 3. Number of Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the Houses having been rendered fit Nil
 - 4. Number of Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil
 - 5. Number of Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil

UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Areas represented to the Local Authority with
a view to Improvement Schemes under (a)
Part I, (b) Part 2, of the Act of 1890 None

4. Number of Houses not complying with the
Building Bye-Laws erected with consent of
Local Authority under Section 25 of the
Housing Town Planning Act, 1919 Nil

5. Staff engaged on Housing Work, with briefly
the duties of each Officer.

1. M.O.H.

2. Sanitary Inspector.

3. Special Sanitary Inspector for special
survey, now discharged on completion of
survey.

I am,

Yours obediently,

A. S. DAVID,

M.R.C.S., L R.C.P., D.P.H.

HOUSING.

APPENDICES.

—0—

1. General.

1.	Estimated Population	...	10,000
2.	General Death Rate	... ..	14.3
3.	Tuberculosis Death Rate	...	0.05
4.	Infantile Mortality	... ..	105.5
5.	Number of Dwelling-houses, all classes		2447
6.	„ „ working class		1607
7.	„ „ working class		
	erected		5

2. Unfit Dwelling-houses

INSPECTIONS.

1.	Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects	... ..	1607
2.	Number of Houses inspected and recorded under Housing Regulations, 1910		1607
3.	Number of Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	285
4.	Number of houses (exclusive of those referred to under sub-heading 3) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	... ..	205
5.	Remedy of defects without Service of Formal Notices	... ..	None issued
6.	Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority	...	8

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 28 HOUSE TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1919,

1. Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of
which notices were served requiring
repairs Nil
2. Number of Houses which were rendered
fit :—
 - (a) By owners Nil
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of
owners Nil
3. Number of houses in respect of which
Closing Orders became operative in pur-
suance of declarations by owners of
intention to close Nil

B. PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

1. Number of Houses in respect of which
notices were served requiring defects to
be remedied Nil
2. Number of Houses which were remedied :
 - (a) By owners Nil
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of
owners Nil

THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ONGAR.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES

FOR THE YEAR 1920.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to hand you my Annual Report as Inspector of Nuisances for the year 1920.

WATER SUPPLY.

Four new wells have been sunk in connection with the Council's Housing Schemes at Fyfield, Willingale, Little Laver, and Kelvedon Hatch, the work being done under my supervision.

The public well at Matching Green, Little Laver, has been cleaned out, a new pump erected, and again brought back into use.

One well at Stanford Rivers has also been cleansed.

Twelve water analyses have been made of supplies (mainly new ones), all with satisfactory results.

Nineteen visits of inspections *re* Water Wells and Water Supplies have been made.

Six new services were laid on to domestic dwellings by the Water Works Co.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The pollution of the River Roding by the effluent from the Ongar Sewage Farm has been complained of by the County Council.

The land is now being ploughed and cropped, and ashes from the House Refuse Disposal are being worked in ; thus improving the land for sewage purification.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERS.

No extension of sewers has been made during the year ; but an extension so as to pick up the new houses at Shelley, and as far as the Red Cow public house, is, in my opinion, very necessary.

HOUSE DRAINAGE.

One hundred and eight visits of inspection, testing new house drainage, etc., have been made.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Several new pail closets have been provided in lieu of middens, and in the case of new dwellings, pail closets are provided where no sewer is available.

SCAVENGING.

A fortnightly collection of House Refuse of the village of High Ongar has been put in operation during the year.

The scavenging of Abridge, in the parish of Lambourne, appears desirable ; at present some of the refuse finds its way into the river.

SCHOOLS.

The connection of the drainage of the High Ongar Schools to the public sewer, as requested by this

Authority, has not yet been carried out—a connection is already laid up to the boundary fence of the School. The present method of disposal is very objectionable.

FOOD INSPECTION.

In no case has diseased or unsound meat been met with during the year; this is partly attributed to the large amount of imported meat which came into the District and appeared to be of good quality.

A quantity of Condensed Milk was found unfit for food.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 15 Bakehouses within the District, and 15 inspections made, their condition being found satisfactory.

MILK SUPPLIES.

INSPECTIONS OF DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Forty inspections have been made by the Inspector. Cleansing and Whitewashing are always carried out when required by the Authority.

Some of the newer sheds are a tremendous improvement upon the old ones.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Nineteen cases of Diphtheria and 9 cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to the Isolation Hospital for treatment during the year, and 4 cases of Scarlet Fever were treated at home at Abbess Roding.

The prevalent disease was again Diphtheria.

The distribution of infectious diseases throughout the District was as follows:--

	Diphtheria.		Scarlet Fever	
Lambourne, including Abridge	12			
Stapleford Abbotts	...	1		
Fyfield	...	2		
Shelley	...	1		
Blackmore	...	1		
High Laver	...	1		
Stanford Rivers	...	1	1	
High Ongar	...		6	
Navestock	...		2	
	—	—		
	19		9	
	—	—		

Disinfection of bedding by moist heat, also disinfection of premises are carried out after all cases of Infectious Disease, including Cancer and Consumption.

Enquiries and investigations are made either by the Medical Officer of Health or Inspector, or by both.

Patients are both removed into and from Hospital by the Council's motor ambulance free.

SCABIES.

Three families at Navestock were severely affected with Scabies. Two of these families were removed to the local infirmary for treatment. Repeated disinfection of bedding and clothing were made. The cause of this outbreak was attributed to the wearing of a child's undervest, which was purchased second-hand, and not washed before being worn.

NUISANCE INSPECTION.

COMPLAINTS.

Eighty-five visits of inspection have been made in respect to complaints or nuisances requiring abatement.

12 nuisances were abated.

6 were non-existing, and

2 remain unabated.

2 statutory notices were served and both complied with.

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

One hundred and eighty-three visits of inspection have been made in supervising the erection of new dwellings, repairs to existing property, etc.

Post-war repairs are now in full swing, especially as the cost of such work is declining and more labour being available.

Three scheduled cottages have been demolished by the owners themselves, and 8 scheduled cottages have been repaired in such a way as to make them fairly satisfactory for a few years.

The following plans have been approved by this Authority during the year:—

Alterations and additions to		
Ashley Lodge	...	High Ongar
Erection of Slaughter House		High Ongar
Additions to Soap House Farm		
House	... ..	Stondon Massey
Bungalow dwelling	...	Kelvedon Hatch
„ „	...	Abbess Roding
„ „	...	Chipping Ongar
Two „ „	...	Stondon Massey
Cowshed, Bridge Farm	...	Shelley

COUNCIL'S HOUSING SCHEME.

The Council has 2 Housing Schemes in hand ; one at Abridge, in the parish of Lambourne, for 20 houses, in pairs (12 parlour, 8 non-parlour), and at Marden Ash, High Ongar, 17 houses (14 in pairs, and a block of 3), all of the parlour type.

Further Schemes are being held in abeyance for the present.

Sites have also been purchased in the following parishes :—

Little Laver.

Fyfield.

Willingale.

Kelvedon Hatch.

A water well has been sunk upon each of the above sites, and an ample supply found in each case. Analysis has shown the water to be of high organic purity, although hard.

Tenders for the pumps and plumbing work have been accepted.

The whole of this work was carried out under the supervision of the Inspector.

In connection with the Housing Scheme, I have made 69 visits relating to the purchase of sites, compensation claims, waiting upon the Council's Architect, and Builders, Housing Inspectors, and visiting works in course of erection, etc.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. C. PHILLIPS.

M. INST. M & CY. E.,

M. SAN. INSP. ASSN.,

ASSOC. R. SAN. INST.

Jenkins (late Chanell), Printer, Ongar.
